Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 18622 021735Z

53
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

RSC-01 NSC-05 /085 W
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P R 021724Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6586
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 18622

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL

REFS: (A) VIENNA 462, (B) USNATO 6674

1. IN A DISCUSSION WITH FRG FONOFF MBFR OFFICE DIRECTOR RUTH TODAY, HE REITERATED THE GERMAN INTEREST IN RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO THE OPENING PROVIDED BY THE SOVIETS WITH THEIR RECENT PROPOSAL FOR A MANPOWER FREEZE. THE GERMANS BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE FOR THE ALLIANCE TO REACT BOTH QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY IN THIS MATTER, NOT LEAST AS A DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY IN MBFR MATTERS.

2. INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE FRG REP IN BRUSSELS ENCOMPASSING THREE PRINCIPAL POINTS. FIRST, THE FRG WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THAT THE ALLIANCE TAKE THE

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PAGE 02 BONN 18622 021735Z

OFFENSIVE WITH REGARD TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. SECOND,

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THE FRG WILL BE MOST INTERESTED TO LEARN WASHINGTON'S VIEW ON THE PROPOSAL. AND THIRD, THE FRG REP WILL MAKE KNOWN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING ITS RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION. RUTH MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR THE COMMENT MADE BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MENZIES AT THE AHG BRIEFING OF THE NAC ON NOVEMBER 29 IN WHICH HE INDICATED THE NEED FOR A SIMPLE ARGUMENT FOR POSSIBLE PUBLIC CONSUMPTION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ALLIES COULD ACCEPT A CEILING NOT GREATER THAN THE HIGHER OF THE TWO FORCE LEVELS, I.E., NO HIGHER THAN THE PACT FORCE LEVEL (REFTE B, PARA 11).

3. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL A, THE FRG REP IN VIENNA MADE A PARALLEL RECOMMENDATION TO BONN CONCERNING THE TEXT OF DRAFT NAC GUIDANCE TO THE AD HOC GROUP. RUTH IS NOT SURE WHETHER THE PHRASE IN PARA 5.A "...WHICH TOTAL WOULD HAVE TO BE AGREED...." IS NECESSARY FOR INCLUSION. WHILE PROFESSING TO UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE FOR THE PHRASE, RUTH'S THINKING IS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A FIGURE AGREED TO BY BOTH SIDES, BUT RATHER THE WEST COULD VERY WELL USE ITS OWN FIGURE FOR THE LEVEL OF EASTERN FORCES.
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